

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

SERENDIPITY

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Glen Arm Road

CITY, TOWN

Glen Arm

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

☒ ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

George Goeree

Telephone #: (301) 592-8794

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Glen Arm P.O.

CITY, TOWN

Glen Arm

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21057

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5450

Folio #: 684

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore County Historic Sites Survey BA 1932

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Office of Planning &amp; Zoning

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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SERENDIPITY is a two and one-half story stuccoed stone house of great complexity. The original detailing and the use of hand-wrought-iron nails indicates initial construction no later than the opening years of the nineteenth century; to date this house has not been located on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, thus its initial construction is attributed to ca. 1800-1810. The principal front faces east and the center hall with the single room on either side appears to be the original section of this house, measuring, approximately 18 by 46 feet. Early in the nineteenth century, not many years after the initial construction, a second room was added behind the earlier north room and center hall, the roof ridge raised to cover the enlarged structure; a kitchen wing was added off the north-west corner of the addition creating the existing very picturesque mass, especially when viewed from the rear.

Most interior detailing remains from the several periods of construction, some of it exceptionally simple, and alterations (except for the early additions) have been minimal.

A barn with a pair of large louvred cupolas stands north of the house, of braced-frame construction on a stone foundation. Its wooden members, joined with mortise-and-tenon are circular sawn dating them as very late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The small overall size of the foundation is indicative of very early barns and quite possibly the foundation is contemporary with the dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SERENDIPITY is the substantial stone house of a prosperous farmer, ca. 1800-1810, among the oldest dwellings in the Historic District. Several additions made soon after the initial construction give the dwelling an exceptionally picturesque quality. It retains almost all of its detailing, contemporary to each section, with little alteration. The barn remains of the many structures which were required to support rural life.

Land of Promise was surveyed for Colonel Henry Darnall 10/5/1683, 2000 acres adjoining to the southwest Lord Baltimore's Manor in the Forks of the Gunpowder. Darnall was a high-ranking government official, and it is unlikely that he built on this investment property. The Wilson family from southern Maryland had started leasing land in the area in 1746. In 1760, Ben Kidd Wilson bought 125 acres of Land of Promise. His son Benjamin Wilson bought 140 acres of Land of Promise 9/7/1796. This last tract now contains the dwelling called Serendipity (a modern name).

It is unlikely that Benjamin had built a house in time for the 1798 assessment. He is assessed for 198 acres, \$992; improvements \$180; 11 slaves. Improvements consisted of 1 dwelling, hip roof,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

see p.8-2

4 windows above, 26 x 18, and a log kitchen 18 x 14. The house is not called "new." Benjamin died in 1833, and in that year his improvements were assessed at \$50, so he apparently had built nothing since the 1798 tax list. The description in his will of the house left half to his wife and daughter (west end) and half to his son Benjamin (east end) is consistent with the 1798 description of a hip-roof house facing either north or south. It is not consistent with SERENDIPITY, which faces <sup>east</sup> ~~est~~. The hip-roof house, along with other Wilson houses, has apparently vanished.

Tradition calls SERENDIPITY a Wilson house of the eighteenth century. H.C. Forman writes beside his photograph of it<sup>1</sup> "Garden of Eden, an old Wilson house, has a main block dating from the eighteenth century, and the nineteenth; with low-ceiled kitchen outshut at the rear." A Wilson house it certainly was, but whether of the eighteenth century, and by which of many Wilsons bought or built, must remain problematical.

It appears as Colonel B. Wilson on the 1850 atlas, and as Caleb Wilson on the 1877 atlas.

1. H. Chandlee Forman, Tidewater Maryland: Architecture and Gardens. New York, Bonanza Books, 1956, p.189.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.59**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr. A.I.A.; Elmer R. Haile, Jr.

ORGANIZATION

Historic Long Green Valley Inc.

DATE

August 3, 1981

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o Julia Randall 5539 Hillrise Road

TELEPHONE

(301) 592-2629

CITY OR TOWN

Glen Arm

STATE

Maryland 21057

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

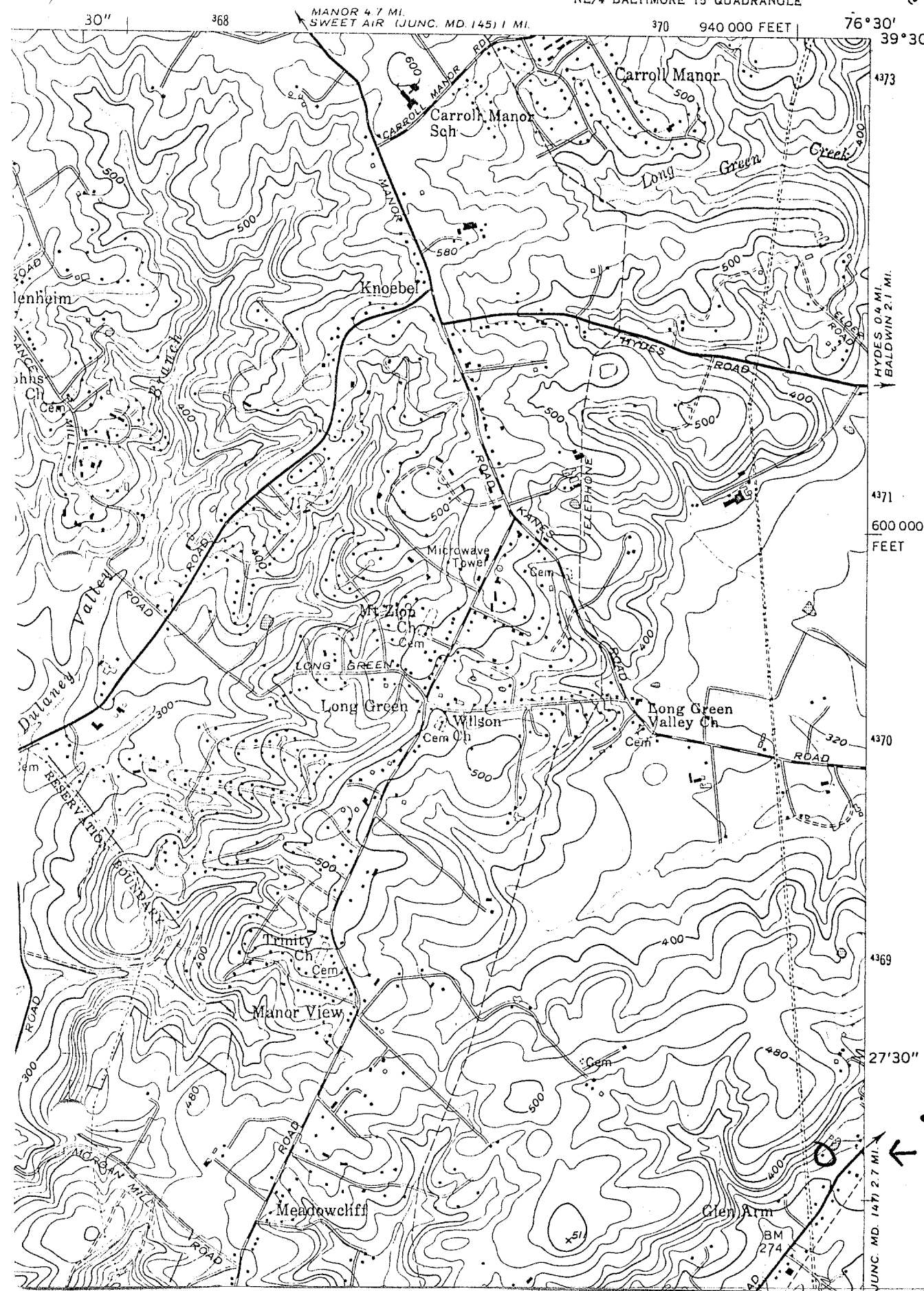
12020

- 1932 SERENDIPITY - 1800 - 1810 - Glen Arm Road, west side, Glen Arm vicinity. This complex, 2-1/2 story, stone and stucco house, is not found in the 1798 tax list, but has detailing that suggests construction in the first decade of the 19th Century. Other wings were added, also in the earlier part of the century. This house belonged to Benjamin Wilson, who lived in a different house per the 1798 tax list. Serendipity was called: "Garden of Eden" in H.C. Forman's 1956 book (p. 189), but James T. Wollon's 1981 study disagrees with an 18th Century origin. This was Colonel B. Wilson's house on the 1850 map and Caleb Wilson's in the 1877 atlas. Also a barn with doubled louvered cupolas, a product of the early 20th Century, or slightly earlier. Owner: George Goeree.
- 1947 YODER FARM - 1810 - 1825 - 4603 Long Green Road, Long Green vicinity. This is a 2-1/2 story stone and stucco house built simultaneously in two sections. The main block is five-bays wide. A small porch with solid turned columns survives from the early period. Most original details survive, including central stairhall, staircase, and mantels. Henry Wilson, a prosperous farmer, left this, one of his two houses, to his son George Washington Wilson, in 1816. Dr. Wilson was a dentist. He also invited Methodists to his home for worship and later gave ground to establish Wilson M.E. Church (Site BA 862). The farm passes successively to Godlove Kane, Isaac Hertzler, and to Solomon Yoder (1854). Lewis Yoder bought the farm from the other heirs in 1880. Fine view from its ridgeline setting. Large bank barn, drive-through corn house, carriage house, and tenant house. In 1854, a limekiln stood on the premises. Owner: L. Morris Yoder.
- 2077 DR. GORSUCH HOUSE - c1878 - 12,641 Fork Road, Fork vicinity. Large, formerly vernacular farm house built after seven-way split of Charlesborough (Forkview Farm) property. From 1878 to 1932, was home of Dr. James F.H. Gorsuch and until 1938, the home of his son Judge J. Fletcher H. Gorsuch, Jr. Rendered into a larger house with columned two-story portico and Georgian interior details during 1930s, by architect James R. Edmunds, Jr. Thorough restoration in progress in 1980 under James Turner Young and Dianne Young.
- 2082 LINDEN (SITE) - Early 1800s - 9220 Belair Road, Perry Hall vicinity. This house, photographed by the WPA HABS team in the 1930's has subsequently become extinct in 1960s or earlier. A two-story frame and clapboard house of vernacular style, it had been the home of Hercules Courtenay and was shown on Sidney's 1850 map. A newer dwelling has been built here and the fields are used as a recreational center as Lassahns Field. There is still (A) CORN HOUSE, a frame and vertical board, drive-through type of farm outbuilding, located just northeast of the main dwelling, and (B) A SPRING HOUSE. Owner: Reba E. Hammond.
- 2142 MOORES ORCHARD - 1852 - 5225 Joppa Road, Perry Hall vicinity. Stone, cross-gabled house of Victorian or practically vernacular style built by John R. Moore on south side of Joppa Road. See Perry Hall, p. 22. Owner: Edward Scott Moore.
- (SITE)
- 2143 WALDMAN'S SEVEN MILE HOUSE - 1880 - 8441 Belair Road, Fullerton vicinity. Large, 3-1/2 story frame Victorian cross-gabled structure, used as road side tavern. See Perry Hall, p. 22. Also Plat Book 27:1. Opposite St. Joseph Church. Demolished about December, 1984.

BA-1932

TOWSON QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-BALTIMORE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

5763 III SW  
(JARRETTSVILLE)



← Serendipity  
BA 1932